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DMME Coal Mine Safety Training Materials Win National Awards

Big Stone Gap, VA – Coal mine safety training materials developed by Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) mine safety staff won two national awards at the TRAM Conference/National Mine Instructors Seminar held October 9-11, 2001 at the National Mine Health and Safety Academy in Beckley, WV, the DMME announced today. The awards are presented by the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) as part of the agency's annual training materials competition.

"Our training and technical specialist staff have worked very hard to come up with new, innovative ideas and methods for delivering effective mine safety training to Virginia's coal industry," said Division of Mines Chief Frank Linkous. "We have received positive feedback from our industry customers and I am pleased to see both the efforts of our staff and our training program recognized with these awards."

DMME training materials won the first place award in the States and Other Government category and the Grand Prize for the best training materials in all categories, including Academia and Industry. The training materials, developed by DMME's Division of Mines staff, focus on continuing education for underground coal mine foremen, new miner contact training, and high voltage electricity safety. Underground Mine Foreman Continuing Education training materials include a computer CD containing a PowerPoint slide show that includes animation and sound.

Virginia coal mine safety training materials have been previously recognized with MSHA first place awards in the State-Coal Mining category in 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999, and a first place in the General category in 1997. Division of Mines training and technical specialist staff who prepared the materials

and presented them at the 2001 competition include: James D. (Don) McDavid, Tony R. Matney, George E. Belcher, Robert E. Garrett, Daniel Perkins, Robert W. Simpson, Gary C. Davis, Dwight A. Miller, Rebecca Moore and Carroll Green.

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